



PATENT APPLICATION

COVER SHEET

Entitled:

REALISTIC ARTIFICIAL ANIMAL

Inventor:

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****REALISTIC ARTIFICIAL ANIMAL****TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] The invention relates to the field of decorative models, in particular realistic animal models.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The love people have for animals is a powerful force. However, the acquisition and maintenance of a living animal can be costly and time-consuming. A representation of an animal may help to satisfy this affection. Representations of animals can also serve other purposes, such as a toy, or a replica for providing comfort and easier assimilation to living animals. Creating a realistic model of an animal may be costly as well. What is needed, therefore, is a realistic artificial animal model.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] An artificial animal is formed from a stiff backbone piece attached to four stiff leg pieces. A malleable, hollow frame is attached to the stiff backbone piece and said four stiff leg pieces. Stuffing is used to fill the malleable, hollow frame and cloth covers the malleable, hollow frame.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[04] For a more complete understanding of the present invention and the advantages thereof, reference is now made to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying Drawings in which:

Fig. 1 illustrates an artificial horse in accordance with one embodiment;

Fig. 2 illustrates a side view of the frame of an artificial horse;

Fig. 3 illustrates an oblique view of the frame of an artificial horse;

Fig. 4 illustrates a wire mesh covered horse frame;

Fig. 5 illustrates a wire mesh;

Fig. 6 illustrates partially assembled body and leg pieces;

Fig. 7 illustrates a body and head support wire;

Fig. 8 illustrates a body support wire;

Fig. 9 illustrates a fore-body support wire;

Fig. 10 illustrates a mid-body support wire;

Fig. 11 illustrates an aft-body support wire;

Fig. 12 illustrates a neck-base support wire;

Fig. 13 illustrates a neck and jaw support wire;

Fig. 14 illustrates an overview of the neck and jaw support wire;

Fig. 15 illustrates a ear-head support wire;

Fig. 16 illustrates an upper-neck support wire;

Fig. 17 illustrates a mid-head support wire;

Fig. 18 illustrates a head-ear support wire;

Fig. 19 illustrates a mid-head support wire;

Fig. 20 illustrates a tail support wire;

Fig. 21 illustrates a first upper hip support wire;

Fig. 22 illustrates a second lower hip support wire;

Fig. 23 illustrates a first right leg assembly;

Fig. 24 illustrates a first left leg assembly;

- Fig. 25 illustrates a hoof assembly;
- Fig. 26 illustrates a lower leg assembly;
- Fig. 27 illustrates an upper leg assembly;
- Fig. 28 illustrates a second right leg assembly;
- Fig. 29 illustrates a second left leg assembly;
- Fig. 30 illustrates a right leg assembly;
- Fig. 31 illustrates a side view of a right leg assembly;
- Fig. 32 illustrates a front view of a body assembly;
- Fig. 33 illustrates a rear view of a body assembly;
- Fig. 34 illustrates a mane assembly;
- Fig. 35 illustrates a tail assembly;
- Fig. 36 illustrates a tail assembly;
- Fig. 37 illustrates a first rocker assembly;
- Fig. 38 illustrates a second rocker assembly;
- Fig. 39 illustrates a rocker blade;
- Fig. 40 illustrates a rocker assembly
- Fig. 41 illustrates a saddle;
- Fig. 42 illustrates a bridle;
- Fig. 43 illustrates a hobby horse assembly;
- Fig. 44 illustrates a hobby horse head assembly;
- Fig. 45 illustrates a hobby horse head and stick assembly;
- Fig. 46 illustrates a stick assembly;
- Fig. 47 illustrates a head support wire;
- Fig. 48 illustrates a head breadth support wire;
- Fig. 49 illustrates a neck support wire;
- Fig. 50 illustrates a head-ear support wire;
- Fig. 51 illustrates an upper head support wire; and
- Fig. 52 illustrates a lower head support wire.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[05] Referring now to the drawings, wherein like reference numbers are used to designate like elements throughout the various views, several embodiments of the present invention are further described. The figures are not necessarily drawn to scale, and in some instances the drawings have been exaggerated or simplified for illustrative purposes only. One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate the many possible applications and variations of the present invention based on the following examples of possible embodiments of the present invention..

[06] In accordance with the disclosed embodiment, the artificial horse will be approximately thirty-nine and one half inches long and fifty-four inches tall.

[07] A shell is constructed by measuring wire, typically 10aw electric wire, the indicated length and connecting together with hooked ends 29 and 30 to create top-line 1. The wire is given the shape indicated by the drawing. Wire body 2 is cut to an appropriate length and folded in half. The wire body 2 is twisted onto top-line 1 at the thigh are and connected with hooked ends onto chest area 20.

[08] Pieces 3-5 are cut and folded in half. Each of the pieces are twisted onto top-line 1 as indicated. The pieces are then folded in half again and twisted onto side pieces 2 to connect body 2 and top-line 1 together in the form of a rib cage. The ends are connected to form girth 26, belly 27 and flank 28 areas.

[09] The shoulders 8 are formed by folding the pieces in half and twisting onto top-line 1 in front of the withers 31. They are connected to body 2 about three inches of the center onto the chest 20 area with hooked ends 20a.

[010] The jowls and neck 9 are formed from wire folded in half and twisted onto muzzle tip 18 where the upper lip will be. The pieces are connected to the shoulders 8 with hooked ends 38.

[011] The throat 10 is formed by folding throat pieces in half and twisting the throat pieces onto the crest of the neck 19, as indicated. The pieces are folded in half again and twisted around the neck and cheek 9. The pieces are connected to the base of the throat with hooked ends 35.

[012] The jowls and ears 11 are formed by folding the jowl and ear piece in half and twisting the jowl and ear piece at the throat 32 are. The jowl and ear piece are twisted around the cheek to create the ears 15. The poll is folded in half and twisted around the center wire of the head and attached to the base of the ears with hooked ends 59.

[013] The forehead piece is folded in half and twisted onto the top-line 1 as indicated. The forehead piece is shaped and attached to cheek 9 with hooked ends 33.

[014] The muzzle wire 12 is folded in half and twisted onto the bridge of the nose 17, as indicated. The muzzle wire 12 is twisted around the cheek and attached to the chin area with hooked ends 34.

[015] The hip-point wire 6 is folded in half. The hip-point wire is twisted onto top-line 1 as indicated. The hip-point wire 6 is attached to the body 2 section with hooked ends 36. These steps are repeated with croup wire 7 and hooked ends 37.

[016] The tail wire 14 is attached to the body by folding the tail wire at about four inches from one end and twisting the tail wire to the top-line 1 just below the croup wire 7 and then attaching the short piece to the hip-point wire 6 with hooked ends 25.

[017] Connecting wire, typically electrical fence wire, at about four inch intervals to produce a square mesh. The square mesh is used to form a shell 38 over the entire body to secure and form the muscle and tone.

[018] A webbing 39 is formed from cord, typically six conductor telephone cord stripped of the outer cover. The cord is tied to the shell, anywhere to start, and twisted around both the connecting wire and body pieces at one inch intervals over the entire body until there are one inch square

covering the body area completely. This same process is repeated over the legs 38 before they are attached to the body.

[019] The frame may be constructed from a three-quarter inch piece of rebar about seventy-three inches long. Wood, such as mop handles or dowel sticks, may be used in place of the rebar. The rebar is bent in half into a U shape with a six inch spread at the bend. The leg portions will be about thirty-three inches in length for the front legs. A second piece of three-quarter inch rebar of about seventy-six inches long is similarly bent with an eight inch spread for the back legs. A third piece of three-quarter inch rebar of about twenty-four inches is welded to each leg piece to form a backbone. A slight curve is bent in the backbone to form the hip area. Four fourteen-inch lengths of three-quarter inch rebar are welded to the legs and backbone to provide further support for the frame.

[020] The front of the leg and the sole of the hoof 39 are shaped as indicated and measured for attachment 40-42 at center points. The hoof and ankle 43 are shaped with connecting wire to create cannon 44. The knee and forearm 45 are formed as indicated for the legs. The processs repeated for each of the four legs. The legs are attached to the body as indicated and webbed. The body, neck, head and legs are stuffed tightly with filler material. The filling material may be packing peanuts, paper or any other suitable filler. Paper is twisted around the wire for ears and the wire is bent down to hold the paper in place.

[021] Cloth, such as valour, is stretched over the complete stuffed body and pinned in place to mold the cloth to all the body parts. The excess is cut away and removed. The cloth is stitched as necessary with a hidden stitch.

[022] The mane is constructed by using a four-ply yarn and separated into two halves. A heavy needle with a big eye is used to stitch in a forelock 51 and all along the crest of the neck 52 to the desired length. A knot 53 is tied to the yarn as close as possible to the cloth to prevent it from pulling out.

[023] The tail is formed from a small strip of material which is stitched on at the base of tail wire

54. The material is stitched along tail wire 54. Yarn may be stitched using a needle to the desired length. A wire may be twisted around a bundle of wire, doubled to the desired length 55.

[024] The nostrils, eyes and mouth of the horse may be embroidered. A marker may be used to outline the areas for embroidery. The hooves may be painted.

[025] Rockers may be added to the horse on the rebar skeleton frame by welding the head of a 16-18 hex-bolt to the end of the legs. A one-eighth inch drill bit to drill holes through the braces 57.

[026] Where the horse is built with a wooden frame, holes are drilled in the ends of legs 58 with a one-quarter inch drill bit appropriate for three inch lag screws 59, one quarter inch in diameter. A three-eighth inch drill bit may be used to drill holes through the braces 57 to attach to the horse.

[027] A standard "pony set" including a saddle and bridle may be purchased at any western tack shop.

[028] A hobby horse may be formed by creating the head piece and enclosing the neck completely. The head piece may be attached to a stick, such as a mop handle or dowel pieces, at one end.

[029] It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art having the benefit of this disclosure that this invention provides a realistic artificial animal. It should be understood that the drawings and detailed description herein are to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive manner, and are not intended to limit the invention to the particular forms and examples disclosed. On the contrary, the invention includes any further modifications, changes, rearrangements, substitutions, alternatives, design choices, and embodiments apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art, without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention, as defined by the following claims. Thus, it is intended that the following claims be interpreted to embrace all such further modifications, changes, rearrangements, substitutions, alternatives, design choices, and embodiments.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: